

I. Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A process for enhancing the melt strength of polypropylene comprising the steps of:

- mixing 100 parts per weight (ppw) of the polypropylene with at least 0.1-8 ppw of an oligomer of maleimide or an oligomer of a maleimide derivative to form a mixture, ~~in the absence of peroxide or in the presence of less than 0.01 ppw of peroxide; and~~

- reacting said ~~polypropylene and oligomer of maleimide or oligomer of a maleimide derivative~~ mixture at a temperature between 150° C and 300° C;

wherein said mixture is substantially absent of any peroxide.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the oligomer of maleimide or the oligomer of a maleimide derivative is prepared in situ by mixing the polypropylene with maleimide monomer or a derivative thereof and a base.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the oligomer of a maleimide derivative is derived from biscitraconic acid.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the maleimide derivative is derived from biscitraconic acid and the base is 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane.

13. (Currently Amended) A composition, which is substantially free from peroxide ~~or contains less than 0.01 ppw of peroxide~~, comprising 100 ppw of polypropylene and 0.1-8 ppw of an oligomer of maleimide or an oligomer of a maleimide derivative, or a mixture of 0.1-8 ppw of a monomer of maleimide or a derivative thereof and a base.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13 wherein the maleimide derivative is derived from biscitraconic acid and the base is 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane.

15. (Currently Amended) A polypropylene which is substantially free from peroxide ~~or contains less than 0.01 ppw of peroxide~~, obtainable obtained from the composition of claim 13 with enhanced melt strength, which is at least 1.5 times higher than the melt strength of the corresponding non-modified polypropylene.

16. (Currently Amended) A polypropylene which is substantially free from peroxide ~~or contains less than 0.01 ppw of peroxide~~, obtainable obtained from the composition of claim 14 with enhanced melt strength, which is at least 1.5 times higher than the melt strength of the corresponding non-modified polypropylene.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of making a foam, fiber, or sheet, comprising using the composition of claim 13.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of making a foam, fiber, or sheet, comprising using the composition of claim 14.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of making a foam, fiber, or sheet, comprising using the polypropylene of claim 15.